

**From:** tigre@roo.ybos.net@inetgw  
**To:** Microsoft ATR  
**Date:** 12/14/01 2:40pm  
**Subject:** Regarding the Microsoft settlement proposal

My name is Titiimaea Ala'ilima and I am a computer professional in Cambridge, MA. I have read of the proposal for a settlement and I must say I feel very strongly that this is an entirely unsatisfactory remedy to the antitrust violations of Microsoft. It entirely sidesteps the issues at hand of abuse of monopoly power, giving no restitution to those who have actually been harmed by their anti-competitive practices.

It is a work of pure public relations. Their so-called penalty involves giving away a certain dollar value of software, with the valuation of that software self-determined as a result of their monopolistic manipulation of the market. And it only serves to entrench their monopoly even further by training more children on their proprietary software. There is scarcely any sense of the word in which I would consider this a penalty, much less a reasonable remedy proportional to Microsoft's culpability.

Why not take the proposal offered by Red Hat, a distributor of the popular Linux operating system? If Microsoft wants to channel their punishment towards the benefit of needy children, why not do it in a cost-effective manner. They could provide hardware, the prices of which they have not themselves artificially inflated, and a more cost-effective operating system could be provided for these machines from another source, Red Hat themselves, for example, who have offered to provide the operating system software completely free of charge. This would impose a real, measurable financial cost to Microsoft, and a real benefit to society, without furthering the monopoly that Microsoft is in trouble for abusing.

It may seem like expediency would serve the interests of all involved, but I think this nation and its economy will suffer if we let Microsoft continue to dictate its own terms. The government will have wasted all of its time and money in prosecuting this case successfully if this settlement is accepted. This decision demands careful deliberation. The public may be tired of seeing this case in the news, but we must not let that dictate the merits of pursuing it further. The future of computing is at stake.

Sincerely,

Titiimaea Ala'ilima  
180 Third Street  
Cambridge, MA 02141

